

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: E. Martello
HIDEO NORO, ET AL.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2628
Application No.: 10/594,114)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 7038
Filed: September 25, 2006)	
	:	
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD)	October 28, 2009
AND IMAGE PROCESSING	:	
APPARATUS)	

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Sir:

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended toward their representatives during the telephone conversation of October 27, 2009. During the telephone conversation, Applicants' representatives discussed the independent claims and patentability arguments presented in the Amendment filed October 6, 2009.

In particular, Applicants' representatives explained the nature of the present invention and discussed the language presented in amended independent Claim 10. The features of Claim 10 were discussed with regards to the exemplary embodiment depicted in Figure 1. As set forth in Claim 10, a user wearing a HMD can use an object manipulation unit in order to operate a position and orientation of a virtual object. An operation panel, which can be operated by the

user, is arranged at a position in the physical space within a viewing field of said image capturing unit attached to the HMD. The operation panel displays an operation panel image used for editing the virtual object, and is capable of receiving a user instruction of editing the virtual object input by the user. As explained during the interview, as the operation panel is arranged at a position in the physical space in the viewing field of the image capturing unit, the operation panel is part of the image of the physical space captured by the image capturing unit. Accordingly, the operation panel is part of the image of the physical space composited with the virtual image by the composition unit.

Applicants' representatives then discussed the rejection of Claims 10 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Williamson et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0104935) in view of Jaszlics et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,744). As noted by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action mailed July 6, 2009, Williamson et al. fails to teach or suggest, among other things, an operation manipulation unit and a operation panel. The July 6th Office Action relies on Jaszlics et al. to overcome these deficiencies.

Jaszlics et al. teaches a system for combining virtual images with real world scenes. The Office Action, on page 4, relies on control frame (Fig. 21) to teach an operation panel image. In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, however, Jaszlics et al. does not teach or suggest, among other features, an operation panel which can be operated by the user, arranged at a position in the physical space within a viewing field of said image capturing unit attached to the HMD, displays an operation panel image used for editing the virtual object, and is capable of receiving a user instruction of editing the virtual object input by the user, as recited in Claim 10.

Rather, in Jaszlics et al., the control frame of Fig. 21 and the current virtual scene jointly form the computer generated image (see column 14, lines 53-65). As such, the control frame of Jaszlics et al. is not arranged at a position within the physical space within a viewing field of said image capturing device.

Accordingly, Applicants' representatives argued that the combination of Williamson et al. and Jaszlics et al. does not teach or suggest, among other features, an operation panel which can be operated by the user, arranged at a position in the physical space within a viewing field of said image capturing unit attached to the HMD, displays an operation panel image used for editing the virtual object, and is capable of receiving a user instruction of editing the virtual object input by the user. The Examiner understood the position taken by Applicants' representatives, but also stated that he would have to review the teachings of the cited art in view of the amendments.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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